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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FUNDS TO OZARK FOOTHILLS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



Left to Right: Pam Anglin, RD Manager, William Fulford, Mayor of Ellsinore, Greg Branum State Dir. RD, Harry Wilbur, Mayor of Naylor, Dr. Greg Batson, Ozark Foothills Development Assoc., Mrs. Ed. Coursey, Lloyd Matthews, Mayor of Poplar Bluff, Mr. Ed Coursey, and Larry Woods, Mayor of Neelyville.

Greg C. Branum, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented an \$8,275 Mock Check to the Ozark Foothills Development Association on September 1, 2005. The funds will be used to pave the parking area of the incubator building owned by the Association.

U. S. Senator Jim Talent said, "I've constantly promoted the idea that small business is the avenue of opportunity for people of all backgrounds and socio-economic status. That's why I'm very pleased that the USDA Rural Development is working with the citizens of Poplar Bluff to bring new business to Butler County.

This Administration understands that small business people create the majority of new jobs in the country and that it's the government's responsibility to help create an environment that allows small businesses to flourish."

"I would like to congratulate the Ozark Foothills Development Association on their receipt of these funds," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson. "Every opportunity to improve the infrastructure, job creation, and quality of life in our Southern Missouri communities is important. This grant, which Rural Development has identified, is a worthwhile investment in the small business community responsible for the jobs and growth in our local economy."

"Rural Development is very proud to provide assistance for this important project," said Branum. "The funding comes from the Rural Development Business Enterprise Grant program. The project will benefit five small and emerging businesses that are located in the incubator building."

"Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," Branum added. "Appreciation is also extended to U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Pam Anglin, at Poplar Bluff Office, 4327 Hwy 67 N, Poplar Bluff, Missouri 63901 or by calling 573-785-9679.

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